

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 EB-08
OTPE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 EURE-00 /068 W
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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5590
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 08306

SECDEF FOR OASD(C3I); JCS FOR J37

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO ETEL MARR
SUBJECT: INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL NET RADIOS

REF: STATE 201377 (240128Z AUG 77)

SUMMARY: THE WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS, AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY (AC/302(WG/1), IS TENDING TOWARD A RESTRICTED DEGREE OF INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL NET RADIOS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS DEGREE FALLS SHORT OF US OBJECTIVES, AND WE PROPOSE A STATEMENT FOR THE US REP TO MAKE TO THIS EFFECT. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OOB FRIDAY, SEP 2. END SUMMARY.

1. THE WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY (AC/302(WG/1)) CURRENTLY IS MEETING TO DISCUSS INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL NET RADIOS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL, WE ARE PROVIDING US REPRESENTATION.

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2. THE WORKING GROUP IS TENDING TOWARD ADOPTION OF A DEGREE OF INTEROPERABILITY WHICH WE BELIEVE FALLS SHORT OF US OBJECTIVES. LED BY GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE UK, MANY WORKING-GROUP MEMBERS ARE PROPOSING TO RESTRICT INTEROPERABILITY OF THESE RADIOS TO THE "RADIO FREQUENCY (RF) SIDE," LEAVING BASEBAND PARAMETERS AS A NATIONAL OPTION. THIS LACK OF STANDARDIZATION OF INPUT-OUTPUT

CHARACTERISTICS COULD PRECLUDE INTERCHANGEABILITY OF
TERMINAL EQUIPMENT AND MODEMS AMONG NATIONAL FORCES.

3. THE ALLIES SUPPORTING THIS APPROACH, HOWEVER, ARGUE
THAT INTEROPERABILITY CAN BE ASSURED THROUGH STANDARDIZA-
TION OF ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF VARIOUS TERMINAL
EQUIPMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDER TRANSMISSION OF

ENCRYPTED DIGITAL FACSIMILE OVER VHF NET RADIOS. THE
AGREED RF CHARACTERISTICS WOULD PRESCRIBE A STANDARD BIT
RATE (16 KBPS), THE FM FREQUENCY DEVIATION, THE WAVEFORM
TO BE APPLIED TO THE MODULATOR, AND OTHER EMISSION
STANDARDS. MC 247 (FINAL) PRESCRIBES PROCEDURES TO
ASSURE CRYPTO INTEROPERABILITY. OTHER NATO AGREEMENTS
WOULD PRESCRIBE STANDARDS FOR FACSIMILE EQUIPMENT,
SPECIFYING COMPRESSION SCHEMES, SHADES OF GRAY, RESOLU-
TION, AND PROTOCOLS TO ASSURE COMMON INTERPRETATION OF
THE RECEIVED BIT STREAM. THIS APPROACH COULD PROVIDE
FACSIMILE INTEROPERABILITY SO LONG AS A NATION DEVELOPED
FACSIMILE EQUIPMENT MATCHED TO ITS RADIOS. IT DOES NOT,
HOWEVER, ASSURE THAT ONE NATION COULD USE STANDARD FACSIM-
ILE EQUIPMENT DEVELOPED BY ANOTHER. SIMILAR ARGUMENTS CAN
BE MADE FOR AND AGAINST THIS APPROACH AS IT APPLIES TO NET
RADIO INTERFACES WITH SWITCHED SYSTEMS.

4. WE BELIEVE THIS DEGREE OF INTEROPERABILITY TO BE A
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"SECOND BEST" SOLUTION AND NOT THE OBJECTIVE THAT MINIS-
TERS HAD IN MIND WHEN REQUESTING THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO
UNDERTAKE THIS INTEROPERABILITY STUDY. WE RECOMMEND THAT
THE US TABLE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
REPORT TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (AND SUBSEQUENTLY SENT TO
THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON C-E EQUIPMENT (TSGCEE)). THE
PURPOSES OF THE STATEMENT ARE TO ALERT THE TSGCEE (WHO
WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS EFFORT IN OCTOBER OF
THIS YEAR) OF THIS ISSUE, TO EXPRESS A US VIEW THAT THIS
RESTRICTED DEFINITION FALLS FAR SHORT OF OUR INTEROPERABIL-
ITY GOALS, AND TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE ACTION BY THE
TSGCEE.

BEGIN TEXT:

MR CHAIRMAN, THE US WISHES TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING VIEWS
REFLECTED IN THE FINAL REPORT, OR TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT ATTACHED AS AN ANNEX TO THE FINAL REPORT. THE
US, WHILE PLEASED WITH MOST OF THE PROGRESS AND RESULTS OF
THE WORKING GROUP EFFORTS, CANNOT SUPPORT THE RESTRICTED
DEFINITION OF NET RADIO INTEROPERABILITY THAT HAS BEEN
SUPPORTED BY SOME OF THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS. THIS

DEFINITION WOULD RULE OUT INTERCHANGEABILITY AMONG THE ALLIES OF ANY DEVICES ATTACHED TO THE BASEBAND SIDE OF NET RADIOS, AND, OF COURSE, OF THE RADIOS THEMSELVES. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT SUCH A RESTRICTED DEFINITION, WHICH INSISTS THAT INTEROPERABILITY OF THESE TERMINAL-TYPE DEVICES IS SOLELY A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, DOES NOT SATISFY THE SPIRIT AND OBJECTIVE SOUGHT BY MINISTERS WHEN ENDORSING THIS STUDY, NOR DOES IT ALLOW THE FLEXIBILITY AND SURVIVABILITY THAT THE MILITARY COMMANDERS OF THE ALLIANCE HAVE STATED AS A NEED.

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CONSEQUENTLY, THE US RECOMMENDS THAT THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT BE INFORMED OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS RESTRICTED DEFINITION OF NET RADIO INTEROPERABILITY AND OF THE US VIEWS CONCERNING THE INADEQUACY OF SUCH A DEFINITION. END TEXT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE BY OOB FRI,
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